

Message Text

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SUBJ: NEW PRESIDENTIAL INSTRUCTIONS ON GOV PURCHASING

1. PRESIDENTIAL INSTRUCTION NO.24, DATED JANUARY 27, 1976, MODIFIES AND LIMITS GOV PURCHASING AND CONTRACTING AUTHORITIES. THIS INSTRUCTION APPLIES TO ALL MINISTRIES, GOV AGENCIES AND GOV-OWNED COMPANIES AND AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTES. WAIVERS CAN BE GRANTED ONLY BY THE PRESIDENT, BASED ON REQUESTS MADE BY MINISTERS.

2. ACCORDING TO THE GUIDELINE, GOV AGENCIES MAY MAKE DIRECT PURCHASES OF GOOD UP TO A VALUE OF BS. 100,000. CONTRACTS MAY BE AWARDED FOR BETWEEN BS. 100,00 AND BS. 1 MILLION BASED ON BIDDING CLOSED TO ALL FIRMS EXCEPT THOSE WHICH HAVE BEEN PRESELECTED. PURCHASE CONTRACT AWARDS FOR MORE THAN BS. 1 MILLION MUST BE BASED ON OPEN BIDDING, EITHER NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL.

3. CONTRACTS FOR SERVICES MAY BE AWARDED DIRECTLY, WITHOUT BIDDING, UP TO A VALUE OF BS. 5 MILLION. CLOSED BIDDING MAY BE USED OF PROJECTS WITH A VALUE OF BETWEEN BS. 5 AND 10 MILLION. ALTHOUGH IT MAY BE WAIVED FOR CAUSE, OPEN BIDDING MUST BE CALLED FOR PROJECTS WITH A VALUE OVER BS. 10 MILLION.

4. CLOSED BIDDING PROCEDURES REQUIRE THAT AT LEAST FIVE COMPANIES BE INVITED TO BID. AT LEAST THREE OFFERS HAVE TO BE SUBMITTED FOR THE TENDER TO BE CONSIDERED VALID.

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5. PUBLIC BIDS MUST BE ANNOUNCED THROUGH NEWSPAPER ADS ON TWO CONSECUTIVE DAYS IN TWO DIFFERENT DAILY NEWSPAPERS. EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST ON THE PART OF POTENTIAL BIDDERS MUST BE RECEIVED WITHIN TEN DAYS OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE TENDER. THE BID EVALUATION COMMITTEE MUST ANNOUNCE CONTRACT AWARD DECISIONS WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF THE DATE ON WHICH BIDS OR PROPOSALS ARE PRESENTED.

6. COMMENT: THESE REGULATIONS HAVE THE INTENT OF "REGULARIZING" THE GOV'S CONTRACT AWARD PROCEDURES, WHICH, UNTIL NOW, HAVE BEEN INCONSISTENT IN NATURE AND IRREGULAR IN APPLICATION. THE GOV OBVIOUSLY IS HOPEFUL THAT THE NEW REGULATIONS WILL BRING ORDER TO THE PROCESS THROUGH WHICH NUMEROUS GOVERNMENT AGENCIES ARE SPENDING LARGE SUMS OF PUBLIC MONEY.
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